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LETTER DATED 8 SEPTEMBER 1994 FROM THE DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I regret to inform you that for the fourth continuous day, Serbian forces continue to launch attacks against and throughout the safe area of Bihac. These attacks are being carried out in a "pincer" manoeuvre, where the Pale Serbs are attacking the safe area from the south near the Una River, while Serbs from the occupied areas of the Republic of Croatia are attacking the north-western end of the Bihac pocket. These Serbian forces are already 2-3 kilometres within the pocket and are approaching the town of Buzim which has already suffered considerably as a result of this intensified Serbian aggression against the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina (RBH). Within the past 48 hours, this Serbian offensive has resulted in 4 civilian deaths, 2 of them children, as well as more than 200 severely wounded.

Of particular concern to both my Government and the Government of the Republic of Croatia is that much of the aggression against the Bihac safe area is being launched from the United Nations Protected Areas in Croatia. According to United Nations spokesman Major Dacre Holloway, there are "upward of 1,000 troops" from the UNPAs attacking the pocket. The attacking troops are being unabatedly supplemented by scores of heavy artillery pieces as well as at least 10 tanks. These attacks are in violation of the Vance Plan, the Zagreb cease-fire agreement of 29 March 1994, and Security Council resolutions 824 (1993) and 836 (1993). We demand a prompt reaction to these latest acts of aggression and violations of this United Nations designated safe area.

We see no reason whatsoever to delay the designation of Bihac as an "exclusion zone", as enunciated under the terms of the NATO Ultimatum of 22 April 1994. Paragraph 8 of the Ultimatum states that "if the safe areas of Bihac, Srebrenica, Tuzla or Zepa are attacked by heavy weapons from any range ... they will be designated, individually or collectively, military exclusion zones". According to United Nations spokesman Eric Chaperon, Bihac has and still is being attacked by heavy weapons. United Nations sources have also reported that the Serbs have used internationally outlawed "cluster bombs", which resulted in many civilian deaths earlier this week.

Paragraph 9 of the Ultimatum further states "that, with immediate effect, if any Bosnian Serb attacks involving heavy weapons are carried out on the United Nations designated safe areas ... these weapons and other Bosnian Serb military assets, as well as their direct and essential military support facilities ... will be subject to NATO airstrikes". We can only urge that these United Nations and NATO mandated steps be taken immediately, before Bihac suffers the same fate that had befallen Gorazde, and before international law and order incur another blow.

May I ask for your kind assistance in circulating this letter as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Ivan Z. MISIC
Ambassador
Deputy Permanent Representative